

# Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Governor Martin O'Malley  
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown  
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

January 17, 2014

## Inaugural Health Literacy Maryland Membership Meeting



CENTER FOR

**HEALTH  
LITERACY**

Health Literacy Maryland is hosting its first annual meeting on Friday, January 31, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the University of Maryland's Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center in College Park, MD. Health Literacy Maryland is a statewide coalition of individuals who want to address and improve health literacy across the state. Participants will learn health literacy and

receive easy-to-use tools to address health literacy, help plan coalition strategies and future activities, and network with others interested in health literacy. The meeting is free and all are welcome to attend.

Click [here](#) to register.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Health Literacy Maryland coalition.

Click [here](#) to view the SHIP health literacy featured topic.

## March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card



March of Dimes released the 2013 premature birth report card. The ratings compare 2012 preliminary preterm birth rates to the March of Dimes 2020 reduction goal of 9.6% of all live births, by geographic region and race and ethnicity. According to the report, the U.S. rate is higher than that of most developed nations with one in nine babies being born too soon. Although the U.S. preterm birth rate decreased in 2012 to 11.5%, the nation received a C on the 2013 report card. Maryland received a C on the report card with a rate of 12.2% premature births.

Click [here](#) to access the 2013 Premature Birth Report Cards.

Click [here](#) to view the Maryland 2013 Premature Birth Report

Card.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing infant deaths.

## January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month



January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, which serves to highlight the issues surrounding cervical cancer, human papillomavirus (HPV) and the importance of early detection. According to the National Cervical Cancer Coalition, approximately 12,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer annually. In the U.S., there are approximately 14 million new cases of sexually transmitted HPV each year, with an estimated 79 million people currently infected. HPV can lead to cervical cancer and is difficult to detect, increasing the importance of encouraging regular screenings for women.

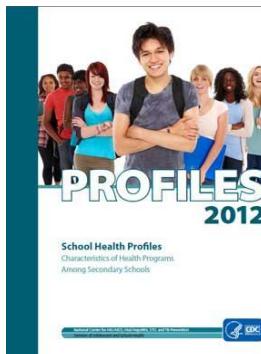
Click [here](#) for more information about Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Maryland chapter of the National Cervical Cancer Coalition.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Maryland Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing the overall cancer death rate.

## 2012 School Health Profiles Survey Results Released



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the 2012 School Health Profiles survey results, which assess school health policies and practices related to HIV/AIDS, school health education requirements and content, and family and community involvement in school health programs. The report includes results from surveys conducted in 45 states, 16 large urban school districts, 4 territories, and 2 tribal governments.

Profile surveys are conducted by education and health agencies among middle and high school principals and health education

teachers. According to the report, 48.8% of schools surveyed in 43 states and 34.6% of schools surveyed in 16 large urban school districts required students to take two or more health education courses. Of schools surveyed in 45 states, 27.7% sold fruit and 21.3% sold non-fried vegetables. Of schools surveyed in 16 large urban school districts, 22% sold fruit and 15.3% sold non-fried vegetables.

Click [here](#) for more information about the School Health Profiles.

## News from the Office of Primary Care Access

### 2014 Loan Repayment Program

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program is now open. The program provides loan repayment assistance to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who serve in communities with limited access to health care. In order to be eligible to apply for the loan repayment program, providers must:

- be licensed to practice in an NHSC-eligible discipline,
- have a job at an NHSC-approved site,
- and have qualifying educational loans.

The application deadline is March 20, 2014.

Click [here](#) for more information about the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.